

FAITH *Alive*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ST. CLOUD
JANUARY 2018 VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Happy Birthday Jesus PaJammin' Party

By Brooke Walther, Children's Ministry Coordinator

On December 10th, the children of PaJammin with Jesus celebrated our blessed savior's birthday! It was an amazing sight to see all the children spread the Good News by telling the story of First Noel. The kids had a blast playing the candy cane pick-up game. They also learned the meaning of colors and shape of the candy cane: love (red) and hope (white) that God gives to us through his son "J"esus Christ. The children also made several crafts including book marks, First Christmas Story Spinner, puzzle and an ornament to adorn their Christmas tree depicting the nativity scene. *(Continued Page 4)*



Introducing...



Brooke Walther

Children's Ministry Coordinator

By Lou Murray, Newsletter Editor

When Brooke and Don Walther joined our congregation about five years ago, with children Kathryn and Kyle in tow, they were the only couple with young children. But the warm welcome they received convinced them that First United Methodist Church of St. Cloud was their church. Over a period

of time, other families joined, and we developed a need for a children's ministry. Brooke saw that as a logical place for her to serve, since she works as an elementary school teacher. Her experience in teaching special education classes equips her to deal with children of all types with caring and understanding.

You'll see Brooke and her capable volunteers leading the children's moments at our contemporary service, and presiding over the Sunday evening PaJammin' with Jesus events. Brooke's aim is to get children to fall in love with Jesus and grow into active church membership. Amen to that!

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4 6 pm | SPRC Mtg.
- Jan. 4 7 pm | Trustees Mtg.
- Jan. 6 5-8 pm | Men's Bible Study & Cookout @ Hickory Tree
- Jan. 8 10 am | UMW Executive Mtg.
- Jan. 11..... 10 am | UMW Sarah Circle Mtg.
- Jan. 18..... 7 pm | Church Council Mtg.

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Pastor Wilma Says...

By Rev. Wilma Reyes, Senior Pastor

Happy New Year! Here we stand at the gates of the unknown as another year breaks through our timelines. I don't mean to sound pessimistic, but don't we all go through this every single year? Don't we go through the same rituals as the our clocks chime every December 31st? We come up with all these lists of things we want changed in our lives, things we never got to on the previous year and hope to finally get to on the new. But, why? Why do we do this if we know we will not do it this time around either? I think the clue is right there, about three sentences back—HOPE! But when does hope turn into wishful thinking? Oh, that's the real culprit, isn't it? We wish for things to happen, we make lists of expectations, but at times many of those never come through. Because we hope. Because we all idealize of a better tomorrow; of those 10 pounds we need to lose, of that last cigarette we will smoke, of that school application we will fill out, of that conversation with our boss for the much wanted promotion.

At the brink of our dreams stands reality—that nasty looking pair of eyes which stares at us with the same smirk that year after year mocks our hopes for a better future. So, how do we do it? How do we erase that smirk from reality's face and make it happen? Well, making it happen! Yes. So often we allow reality's cousins, doubt and fear, to stop us on our way to where our dreams lead. We look at ourselves in the mirror and look through those dark and dirty glasses of doubt and fear which don't allow us to see what stands on the other side—above and beyond what our supposed reality is blocking—to see someone who has attempted way too many times and stands defeated once and again.

But this year, as the ugly truth of the unmet challenge reality brings stares at our faces, we will stare right back and say; this year I'll be the one smiling back at you. This year, I'm going to overcome my fears. This year, I will make it happen... because this year I'm not doing this alone. This year I'm going to recognize that my defeat stands where I allow my ego step in the way every time I attempt to do things on my own strength. This year, I will allow God-with-Us to be with me. This year, I'm going to call on my brother, sister, mom, aunt, nephew, anyone who wants to be my accountability partner and let them know when I'm once again off track. This year I will allow someone to walk alongside me and see me through the hard times when I want to quit in my endeavor. This year, I am not doing it alone. And you know what? That's the recipe for real success in anything we set ourselves to accomplish—knowing that God has given us a huge family of believers in God who will gladly do it with us. So, what's standing between us and this year's resolution? The lie that we can do it alone without any help.

**Come Pray With Us
at**

**POWER
HOUR**

**Every Monday
8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary annex
Serendipity Classroom**

**We welcome
your
prayer requests**



LOVE GOD



LOVE OTHERS



SERVE THE WORLD



INVITE A FRIEND

Family Movie Night

By Brooke Walther, Children's Ministry Coordinator

On December 9th, our church welcomed families and friends to enjoy the fun-loving comedy Home Alone! Children young and old laughed out loud and enjoyed each other's company. We even had a visit from the "Big Guy in the Red Coat". The kids got to tell him and his elf what they wanted for Christmas and if they had been good or bad. Many of the children were extremely honest with their answers and treated the experience more like a confessional than what Santa was expecting I bet. Either way, all children and children at heart had a blast! I for one look forward to this event from year to year. Thanks so much to Christa Olson and David Daniel for arranging the movie and Santa visit. Thanks to Faelo, Sharon, Chris, and Natalie Donis for popcorn and Bob Nye—the sound guy—for the sound of course! None of these events could go on without each and every one of us helping out!



Vacation Bible School

is nearly six months away, but we're starting to plan ahead for it. Watch for developments as we prepare for this year's **ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE!!**

THANKS

for your help
St. Cloud Cares
Food Collection
Every
1st Sunday



UMW News

By Judyann Ruth, President

Our next general meeting is Thursday, Jan 4th at 10:00 AM. Our meetings are in the FLC. All women are invited to attend. We will be planning programs for 2018.

PRAYER CHAIN



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

If you or someone you know needs extra prayers, please call Judyann Ruth 407-891-2821. We have members who will pray for your special needs.

First UMC Preschool Celebrates

By Denise Dunn, Preschool Director

10th and Ohio was rockin' on 12/15 at our annual Christmas program and this Director couldn't be more proud!! The children sang their hearts out to a packed sanctuary of family and friends! Our Basket Auction was such a success, we ran out of tickets and had to hurry out and buy more! Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of all our guests, we raised \$1,183.00 to be used in the future for our students. We are so blessed! Many thanks to the several church members that attended!

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fumpsc to see the latest photos and events that are happening at First United Methodist Preschool



PaJammin' Christmas Party *(Continued from page 1)*

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the moms and dads that volunteer their time and efforts to support the Children's Ministry. I would also like to thank the FUMC of Saint Cloud Family for giving me the opportunity to work with these kiddos from week to week and watch them grow in the heart of Jesus! I look forward to a New Year filled with many activities that will unite all members, ministries and neighbors of community to our amazing church!



PaJammin' with Jesus Topics for January

January 14: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Following God's Will. Blind Maze game.

Our God is faithful. 100%

January 28: ARMOR OF GOD

Armor Relay. Aluminum foil soldier statues.

